Mt Ruapehu

Ruapehu began erupting at least 250,000 years ago. In recorded history, major eruptions have been about 50 years apart, in 1895, 1945 and 1995–1996. Minor eruptions are frequent, with at least 60 since 1945. Some of the minor eruptions in the 1970s generated small [ash](http://www.bing.com/reference/semhtml/Volcanic_ash) falls and [lahars](http://www.bing.com/reference/semhtml/Lahar) (mudflows) that damaged skifields.

2006 eruption

Ruapehu erupted at 10.30pm on 4 October 2006. The small eruption created a volcanic earthquake of magnitude 2.8, sending a water plume 200 m into the air and 6-m waves crashing into the wall of the crater.

2007 lahar

On 18 March 2007, the tephra dam which had been holding back the crater lake burst, sending a [lahar](http://www.bing.com/reference/semhtml/Lahar) down the mountain. An estimated 1.4 million cubic metres of mud, rock, and water thundered down the Whangaehu river.

